

STUDY IN THE USA

Information Resource Center

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy, Jakarta

U.S. Embassy Jakarta

Mission Statement

Based on mutual respect and shared values, the U.S. Mission works with Indonesia to strengthen democracy, sustain the environment, promote prosperity, enhance understanding and ensure security for our people, our nations, and our region

U.S. System of Higher Education



From the many types of institutions to the virtually unlimited array of programs and ma-

jors, the universities and colleges in the United States reflect the diversity, tolerance, and pursuit of excellence that characterize the best of the country as a whole.

Whether following a rigorous program in chemistry, gaining workplace experience through

internships, enriching the educational experience through distance learning and the expanded course and resource offerings of the World Wide Web, or pursuing artistic excellence, students in the United States can find programs and institutions that will allow them to realize their full potential.

The U.S. system of higher education is unlike most others in that there is no national system. The U.S. Constitution reserves for the states all govern-

ment functions not specifically described as federal. The states are, therefore, principally responsible for the establishment, governance, and regulation of universities and other institutions of higher learning.

The states license institutions, but they neither accredit nor guarantee the quality of these schools. Instead, the system of accreditation is operated by private, nonprofit organizations.

Read more at:

<http://1.usa.gov/fITUzA>

Accreditation in the U.S. Higher Education

Accreditation is a process of external quality review created and used by higher education to scrutinize colleges, universities and programs for quality assurance and quality improvement. Accreditation in the United States is more than 100 years old, emerging from concerns to protect public health and safety and to serve the public interest.

In the United States, accreditation is carried out by private, non profit organizations designed for this specific purpose. External quality review of higher education is a nongovernmental enterprise. The U.S. accreditation structure is decentralized and complex, mirroring the decentralization and complexity

of American higher education. The higher education enterprise is made up of degree-granting and non degree granting institutions. These may be public or private, two- or four-year, non profit or for-profit.

U.S. accreditors review colleges and universities in 50 states and 97 other countries. They review many thousands of programs in a range of professions and specialties including law, medicine, business, nursing, social work, pharmacy, arts and journalism.

Both federal and state government consider accreditation to be a reliable authority on academic quality. The federal government relies on accreditation

to assure the quality of institutions and programs for which the government provides federal funds and for which the government provides federal aid to students. Most state governments will initially license institutions and programs without accreditation.

However, states will subsequently require accreditation to make state funds available to institutions and students.

States often require that individuals who sit for state licensure in various professions have graduated from accredited institutions and programs.

More info is available at:

<http://bit.ly/f81jys>

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>U.S. System of Higher Education</i> | 1 |
| <i>Accreditation in the U.S. Higher Education</i> | 1 |
| <i>Why Study in the U.S.A</i> | 2 |
| <i>Prepare for the Student Visa</i> | 2 |
| <i>Preparing a Successful Application</i> | 3 |
| <i>Scholarships: AMINEF and Fulbright Programs for Indonesian</i> | 4 |
| <i>Education Advising Service: Education USA</i> | 4 |
| <i>About IRC</i> | 4 |

Disclaimer: Books, articles, and web-sites described in this info package present a diversity of views in order to keep the readers abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessary reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Why Study in the USA?



Here are just a few of the reasons why more than 600,000 international students from around the world are furthering their education in the United States:

Quality: U.S. colleges are known worldwide for the quality of their facilities, resources, and faculty. Accreditation systems ensure that institutions continue to maintain these standards.

Choice: The U.S. education system is unrivalled in the choice it offers in types of institutions, academic and social environments, entry requirements, degree programs, and subjects in which to specialize. There are more than 4,300 colleges and universities in the USA, any one of which can offer you excellent facilities, programs, faculty, and a range of social and academic environments.

Diversity: You can find a mix of people from all different backgrounds

and all corners of the globe on U.S. campuses; more than 600,000 international students come to study in the United States each year.

Value: As an investment in your future, a U.S. degree offers excellent value for the money. A wide range of tuition fees and living costs, plus some financial help from universities, make study in the United States affordable for thousands of students.

Flexibility: Students in the United States may choose from many courses within their university and have the option to move from one institution to another. Completing the first two years of a degree at one institution, usually a community college, and then moving to another, is very common.

More info: http://www.educationusa.or.id/study_in_the_us

Prepare for the Student Visa

Here is some information about student and other types of visas that we hope you will find useful as you plan for your academic program.

1) What is a Visa?

A visa allows a foreign citizen to travel to a U.S. port-of entry and request permission from the U.S. immigration officer to enter the United States. It does not guarantee entry into the U.S. For more information about the definition of a visa, as well as policies and procedures regarding visas, please visit the State Department Visa Home page at <http://travel.state.gov/visa/>

2) What type of visa do I need to become an academic student in the United States?

Most non-U.S. citizens who wish to study in the United States will seek an F-1 (non-immigrant) student visa, but there are other visa types that are sometimes authorized for those who study in the U.S. Here is the complete list of visa to study in the U.S:

F-1, or Student Visa: This visa is the most common for those who wish to engage in academic studies in the United States. It is for people who want to study at an accredited U.S. college or university or to study English at a university or intensive English language institute.

Read more at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html

M-1, or Student Visa: This visa is for those who will be engaged in non-academic or vocational study or training at an institution in the U.S.

Read more at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html

J-1, or Exchange Visitor: This visa is for people who will be participating in an exchange visitor program in the U.S. The "J" visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs. Read more at: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1267.html

3) Applying for a Visa

In order to apply for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, you must first have a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System)-generated document (either an I-20 or DS-2019) issued by a U.S. college or university or Department of State-designated sponsor organization. You will be required to submit this form when you apply for a visa. The U.S. academic institution or program sponsor will provide you with the appropriate SEVIS-generated form only when you have been academically admitted to the institution or accepted as a participant in an exchange program. The institution or program sponsor will also send you additional information about applying for the appropriate visa, as well as other guidance about beginning your academic program in the United States.

Once you have all the required documentation, you may apply for the visa, even if you do not intend to begin your program of study for several months. It is best to apply early for the visa to make sure that there is sufficient time for visa processing.

More info: <http://www.educationusa.info/pages/students/visa.php>



VIDEO: The Student Visa Application Process

This video is a tutorial about how you can take control of the U.S. student visa application process. By following the simple steps outlined in this video, you can give your application the best chance of acceptance and be on your way to your new school.

To watch please click: http://www.educationusa.or.id/latest_video/detail/10

Preparing a Successful Application : The Application Process



Ideally, you should begin the application process at least one year in advance of the time you wish to enroll in a U.S. school. The following is a brief outline of the steps you should take to apply to undergraduate and graduate institutions:

1. Seek accurate information about studying in the U.S. from EducationUSA advising centers.

Timeline : 12 to 18 months prior to the academic year

More info on study in the U.S.: <http://www.educationusa.or.id/>

2. Determine whether studying in the U.S. is right for you by evaluating your academic qualifications, English language skills, and your financial resources.

Timeline : 12 to 18 months prior to the academic year

More info on study in the U.S: <http://bit.ly/fZuLYO>

3. Begin the school selection process using comparative guidebooks, individual school catalogs, and resources on the Internet. Choose schools based on the field of study, location, size, admission requirements, cost, selectivity and other personal preferences.

Timeline : 12 to 18 months prior to the academic year

More info on Colleges and Universities: <http://bit.ly/aQluCR>;

<http://bit.ly/14E5dZ>; <http://bit.ly/eg6ync>

4. Check the school's admission testing requirements (TOEFL, SAT or ACT, SAT II, GRE, GMAT, etc), note the test dates and apply before registration deadlines. Make sure to have scores sent directly to the schools to which you want to apply. After taking the test, it usually takes two to four weeks from the test date for scores to reach the schools.

Timeline: 12 months prior to enrollment (months indicated are estimates) : August

More info on Admission Requirements and Entrance Examinations:

Undergraduate studies: <http://bit.ly/gB5OGj>

Graduate Studies: <http://bit.ly/f4uBAR>

5. Send inquiry letter or a preliminary application form to schools you are interested in to request detailed information and application forms. Most students will request application from 10-15 schools, but actually apply to five to eight schools. If needed, request information about financial aid. Most schools allow applicants to download all necessary application materials from their website and submit it online when completed. Students can also take advantage of the common application.

Timeline: 12 months prior to enrollment (months indicated are estimates) : August

More info on Requesting Application Material: <http://bit.ly/fKG9SG>

6. Complete application forms sent from U.S. schools. Note their application deadlines. When applying to a school, you are usually required

to submit the following materials:

* Formal application form, usually including essay questions or a personal statement. * Official academic results, which must be sent directly from your school or university. * Standardized exam results, sent directly from the Educational Testing Service, College Board, GMAC or other testing organizations. * Financial statement. * Letters of recommendation, which must be sent directly by your teachers or counselors. * Financial aid application if you are in need of aid or scholarships. * Application fee

Timeline: September - December

More info on Completing and Returning the Application Materials:

<http://bit.ly/fKG9SG>

7. Make sure all necessary forms and documents will be received before the school's application deadlines.

Timeline: January - March

8. When you receive an acceptance letter from the school you wish to attend, note the deadline for your reply and pay attention to other forms such as the I-20, housing application, and arrival information. *Timeline*: April-June

9. Notify the school that you plan to enroll. Send along your housing application and deposit, if necessary. Request I-20 form (which is required to apply for a student visa) if you have not received one yet. *Timeline*: June-August

10. Apply for a student visa at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. *Timeline*: June-August

More info on Student Visa Program, <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/svp.html>; <http://bit.ly/evvCuK>

11. Attend a pre-departure orientation program.

More info: <http://bit.ly/bhrvGS>

12. Plan to arrive at your school in time for New Student Orientation and Registration. Follow arrival instructions sent from the school.

More Info on Preparing Successful Application: <http://bit.ly/bBbpe6>

Fast Facts

- New international student enrollment – students enrolling for the first time at a U.S. institution in Fall 2009 – increased 1.3% over the previous year.
- In the 2009/10 academic year, there were almost 7,000 Indonesia were studying in the U.S. Indonesia is the eighteenth leading place of origin for students coming to the U.S.

Source: Open Doors Report 2010.

Scholarships: AMINEF and Fulbright Programs for Indonesians



The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF), established in 1992, is a bi-national non-profit foundation that administers the Fulbright Program in Indonesia.

The primary focus of the Fulbright Program in Indonesia is to promote mutual understanding between the Republic of Indonesia and the United States of America through educational exchange and academic scholarship.

Annually the Fulbright Program awards more than 120 scholarships to both Americans and Indonesians to study, teach, or conduct original research in a variety of disciplines. Those grants are competitive, comprehensive, and generally cover tuition and fees, textbook allowance, monthly maintenance, international airfare, and health insurance.

Minimum eligibility requirements include Indonesian citizenship, an undergraduate degree, good health, and proficiency in English. Age or discipline are normally not criteria for Fulbright awards. Applicants for

advanced research/lecturing awards must have Indonesian citizenship, a doctoral degree or equivalent professional qualifications, good health, and English fluency. Please do check the actual program requirements for more detailed information.



The following Fulbright scholarship are available to Indonesian citizens with the appropriate qualifications as stipulated in the program descriptions:

- Master's Degree Programs
- Ph.D. Programs
- Research Programs
- Fulbright Special Programs
- Fulbright and Dikti Scholarship Programs

Types of each program offered and other detailed-information is accessible at: <http://www.aminef.or.id/fulbright.php>

Clear and concise written Study Objectives and Research Proposal are extremely important factors in being considered for all Fulbright Programs.

Education Advising Service: Education USA

EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) at the U.S. Department of State. The ECA fosters mutual understanding between the U.S and other countries by promoting personal, professional, and institutional ties between private citizens and organizations in the U.S and abroad, as well as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences. The foreign students of yesterday are becoming the world leaders

Millions of prospective students learn about U.S. study opportunities through EducationUSA centers each year. In Indonesia, EducationUSA is operated by the American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF), a bi-national non-profit foundation, and several host institutions to have

four EducationUSA centers in Indonesia: Jakarta, Medan, Surabaya, and Malang.

More info:

EducationUSA Indonesia: <http://www.educationusa.or.id/>

EducationUSA Main site: <http://educationusa.state.gov/>

Connect with Education USA Indonesia



<http://www.facebook.com/EducationUSAIndonesia>



<http://twitter.com/EducationUSAInd>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/EducationUSAInd>

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized reference and research facility. Our goal is to provide you with accurate, up-to-date and authoritative information about U.S. society and policy materials, cover such topic as U.S. foreign policy, government, economics and trade, history, social and cultural issues.

The IRC collection includes an up-to-date reference collection, a periodicals section, and access to extensive online databases. Please check our online catalog at <http://69.63.217.22/U10086Staff/OPAC/index.asp>

Our professionally-trained reference specialists use print and periodical collections as well as online databases and the Internet to retrieve the information that you need quickly, conveniently, and free of charge.

Information queries may be submitted to us by phone, fax, mail, and e-mail. You are also welcome to visit us by appointment for personal research assistance.

Contact Info:

Information Resource Center (IRC)
Public Affairs Section ; U.S. Embassy Jakarta.
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel.: (021) 350-8467
Fax: (021) 350-8466
Email: ircjakarta@state.gov
Website: <http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/irc.html>

Walk-in Visitors (by appointment only):
Monday to Friday; from 07:30 to 16:00
Closed on U.S. and Indonesian holidays.